(a) whether the final technical report of the National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan has been indicated that India has lost over 50% of its forest cover, 40% of its mangroves and a significant part of its wetlands;

(b) what are the major recommendations made in the Report for securing India's future;

(c) whether Government have started working on the recommendations made in the above Report;

(d) if so, the details thereof; and

(e) if not, the reasons therefor?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (e) The technical report of the "National Biodiversity Strategy and Action Plan (NBSAP)" was prepared under a project funded by the United Nations Development Programme — Global Environment Facility. The report contains compilation of inputs from various stakeholders on conservation of biodiversity, its sustainable use and equity in various aspects relating to conservation and use. The document is compilation of 71 reports prepared at local, state, eco-regional and thematic level. The report did indicate that the forest cover in the country and areas under mangroves and wetlands have reduced. However, there were large number of discrepancies and inconsistencies in the report. Hence, pursuant to the completion of the project tenure and submission of the draft report, a "Group of Experts" was constituted by the Ministry of Environment & Forests to scrutinize the draft Report and rectify the discrepancies and inconsistencies. The report has since been corrected by the "Group of Experts". This corrected and revised report is going to act as an input for the draft National Action Plan (NAP) which is to be prepared, harmonizing it with the provisions of the draft Environment Policy of the Ministry.

Cleaning of Yamuna river

†44. SHRI MOTILAL VORA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) the rivers whose cleanliness model has been studied by the group of experts for cleaning of Yamuna;

† Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(b) the number of *nullahs* whose sullage is being released in Yamuna everyday at present alongwith the quantity of this water;

(c) the system set up or being set up for treatment of sullage before being releasing it in Yamuna and the expenditure to be incurred on the same; and

(d) the expenditure incurred on the cleanliness of Yamuna, so far, and the extent to which it has been cleaned?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) to (c) No studies are reported to have been conducted by any Group of Experts with regard to the cleanliness model of other rivers for cleaning of Yamuna. At present 3450 million litres per day (mld) of wastewater is being generated in Delhi and discharged through 22 drains which carry sewage/sullage and treated effluents into the river Yamuna. Treatment facilities to the tune of 2330 mld, 322 mld and 401 mld have been created under Yamuna Action Plan (YAP) Phase-I in Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh respectively. The Ministry has launched YAP Phase-II in December 2004 with the financial assistance from Japan Bank for International Cooperation (JBIC). This project has been approved for the states of Delhi, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh at an estimated cost of Rs. 624 crore. The major item of works under YAP Phase—II include the following:

* Rehabilitation of trunk sewers (30.82 kms.) and works of Sewage Treatment Plants (135 mld new and 324 mld rehabilitation) in Delhi.
* Construction of Sewage Treatment Plants (54 mld) and Rehabilitation of Sewer Lines/Rising Mains (85.7 kms.) in UP.
* Interception & Diversion of Sewer Lines (73 kms.) and improvements in the efficiencies of existing Sewage Treatment Plants in Haryana.

In addition to the Action Plan, the Delhi Government has also taken up large scale non-sewerage, sewerage and sewage treatment works out of their own plan funds.

(d) Under the YAP Phase-I of the Ministry, a total of 255 schemes of pollution abatement were completed including 34 sewage treatment plants

having treatment capacity of 741 mld at a total expenditure of Rs. 678 crores in the states of Delhi, UP & Haryana.

National Environment Policy

45. SHRI B. J. PANDA: Will the Minister of ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS be pleased to state:

(a) whether Government propose to formulate a National Environment Policy;

(b) if so, the details thereof; and

(c) how far, this would help to address the environmental concerns in development activities?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI NAMO NARAIN MEENA): (a) Yes, Sir. The Ministry of Environment and Forests has prepared a draft National Environment Policy (NEP).

(b) The draft NEP is a response to our national commitment to a clean environment, mandated in the Constitution. It recognizes that maintaining a healthy environment is not the State's responsibility alone, but also that of every citizen. It briefly describes key environmental challenges, currently and prospectively facing the country, the objectives of environment policy, normative principles underlying policy action, strategic themes for intervention, broad indication of the legislative and institutional development needed to accomplish the strategic themes, and mechanisms for implementation and review.

(c) The NEP is intended to help realize sustainable development by mainstreaming environmental concerns in all development activities and relevant sectoral policies. It is expected to serve as a guide to action plans, programmes and projects for environmental conservation.

Assistance to EPIs in Andhra Pradesh

46. SHRI RAMA MUNI REDDY SIRIGIREDDY:
SHRI K. RAMA MOHANA RAO:

Will the Minister of FOOD PROCESSING INDUSTRIES be pleased to state: